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We may be permitted to state that the views of our contributors and correspondents do not necessarily reflect the policy of the Wednesday Review.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. Montagu's gibe at the Madras Government was as ill-mannered as it was ridiculous. At any rate, it was not in keeping with the seriousness of the occasion or the dignity of his position as Secretary of State referring to a Local Government under his control. Mr. Montagu may be sure that it is not the Madras Government which would look small after the joke. Probably, the presence of Lord Pentland in the Strangers' Gallery was too much for Mr. Montagu's temper, and that accounts for the petulant outburst. Mr. Montagu is thoroughly mistaken if he believed that his cheap sneer at the Madras Government would strengthen his case for diarchy. Lord Pentland's Government offered the most determined opposition to some of the wilder proposals contained in the Joint-Report, and instead of appreciating their courage and consistency, however much he may dislike the ir views, the Secretary of State goes out of his way and indulges in a sneer. It is not likely that the Select Committee which is to examine the details of the Reform Bill would be hoodwinked by Mr. Montagu's joke into believing that he knows more of Indian conditions than the Madras Government or is more solicitous of the country's welfare. After all, what was the point of the joke? Some mysterious friend seems to have told Mr. Montagu that India in June 1919 was a far different place from what it was at the end of March 1918 and Mr. Montagu's complaint is that the Government of Madras did not share in this wonderful discovery of his friend. The discovery of the friend looks very much like a mare's nest, but the poor Madras Government has no time to go amarenesting.

Mr. Montagu is of course doing his best to make the diarchy go down the throat of the Parliament. He seems to take a peculiar pleasure in singing the praises of his pet proposal which considered from every point of view is about the most dangerous of the changes contemplated by the scheme. But still we have reason to hope that Parliament will not swallow the Montagu' brand of diarchy, though there may be a remote possibility of some modified form of it being accepted. We have Mr. Bonar Law's assurance, however, that it would be within the competence of the Joint Committee to introduce an amendment giving effect to an alternative to diarchy proposed by the majority of Provincial Governments and the bill has been drafted with this in view. If that be so, there will be ample opportunity for those who are really interested in the well-being of

India's millions to expose the futility of Mr. Montagu's diarchy and the utter ignorance of Indian conditions displayed by him in making his proposal. Those who have only a superficial acquaintance with India will be easily taken in by Mr. Montagu's specious plea that if the diarchy goes, the whole scheme of reform goes with it. Mr. Montagu's main contention is that it is only the ministerial system of administering the transferred subjects that will give real responsibility to the representatives of the people. The contention may be all sound in the abstract, but we have to do with realities. Under the scheme the representatives of the electorate will be no more representatives of the people of India than Mr. Montagu's military informant in Mesopotamia, who, for aught we know, may be another Mrs. Harris and who, it would appear, assured the Secretary of State that the Reform scheme has been voted the best by every Indian Sepoy serving in that country.

Only the other day we referred to the opinion of Dr. Fisher that no nation was well advised to allow its teaching profession to become discontented or unattractive to talent and devotion. We are afraid that to call for applicants for the post of the Tamil pandit in the model college run by the Government on a monthly salary of Rs. 50, with prospects of rising to Rs. 70 in the course of years is hardly the way to attract talent and devotion to the profession of teaching. If the vernaculars are neglected and the pandit is the butt of the boys in the school, it is largely because of the niggardly policy persisted in by the Government in the appointment of pandits. It may be that the pandits are a contented lot whose wants are few and easily satisfied, but that is no reason why Government should offer them the salary of a motor car driver. It takes years of hard study and unremitting devotion for the acquisition of knowledge for an Indian to become a pandit and be recognised as such. It involves as much labour, if not more, as for an Englishman to become a professor of English. The range of scholarship is no less, and we do not see why in the matter of salary alone there should be such glaring distinction shown. We do not know on what principle the salary of a pandit is fixed. Is it because he does not ride in his own carriage to the college or school and does not follow the latest fashion in dress and diet? Probably if he did, there would be an automatic rise in his salary. If the pandit's place is to be one of honour and distinction as it ought to be in the interest of education and scholarship, the Government and the department of education should altogether revise their notions regarding the status and salary of the pandit and the profession.

Of the heroes who resigned from the Imperial Council as a protest against the passing of the Rowlatt Act commend us to Mr. Sukhul. The story of the resignations and, of course, the withdrawls is worth retelling. Hero No. 1 had all the glory of resignation to himself but his heroism did not survive twenty-four hours, and at the special request of friends, admirers, sympathisers, etc., he went back. Hero No. 2 held out a little longer, but the persuasion of his friends, admirers etc. etc. was so persistent and overwhelming that he could not but succumb to it, and he will be again taken into the fold of which he was such a shining light. But the hero of the right metal among these is without doubt Mr. B. D. Sukhul though he may come under the category of the lesser luminaries. We may dislike his politics but we have nothing but admiration for his consistency. He has held out against the blandishments of friends, and the lesson he has thus set we heartily commend to the volatile honorables who do not seem to know their own minds for a few hours at a stretch.

In our leading article we refer to some of the amazing misstatements for which Mr. Montagu made himself responsible in his speech at the Second Reading of the Government of India Bill. He is welcome to praise his own scheme to his heart's content, and we have no quarrel with him in his attempts to make out that those who support his scheme are the wisest of mankind or rather statesman-kind. We don't expect him to do anything less. But he is overstepping his limits when he threatens the Parliamentary Select Committee that is to be that if it did not swallow the whole of his bill, it would bring disaster on India. We feel sure however, that the Committee will get better of this hollow threat and unflinchingly do its duty by the 315 millions whom Mr. Montagu commended to its care with so much pious unction. In examining the details of the scheme, we should ask the Committee to bear in mind Mr. Montagu's own admission that his zeal for reform has overridden any practical difficulties in the way of realising his proposals. If only the Committee would not allow its sentiment or zeal, whatever it is, to runaway with its powers of discrimination, the safety of the 315 millions may yet be assured. Changes in administrative details have no place for sentiment, however laudable. Everyone of them has a close bearing on the daily life of the vast population of India. It is not the agitators who now seem to be the special favourites of Mr. Montagu, who will ultimately suffer from any false step that might be taken in overhauling the administrative machinery at the bidding of a handful of professional politicians. It is the voiceless millions who will suffer and

who will have to pay dearly for any hasty innovations that might be introduced into an administrative system that has worked so long for their good.

Mr. Gandhi seems to have varied his activity from Satyagraha to Swedeshi. Evidently the former has not brought him as many converts as he probably expected and in fact, one by one they are deserting him. He has now practically transferred his love to the swedeshi cult and his latest bulletins refer to it. Mr. Gandhi appears to believe that the swedeshi cult would spread more rapidly among the women-folk than among hard-headed men, especially at such a commercialised city as Bombay. Even among women his success is doubtful. The other day he lectured to the Bombay ladies on the need of their joining his camp and he complimented them by saying that the swedeshi movement would never be successful if men alone took the vow and practised it, because it was the mother who shaped the character and left abiding impressions on the minds of her children. But the shrewd housewives they are, the Bombay ladies didn't swallow the compliment quite readily. Mr. Gandhi's exhortation was to the effect that they should chuck all foreign clothes they might possess and go in for swedeshi clothes. But the ladies kicked at such an uneconomical advice, and one of them pointed out that many ladies had very costly foreign clothes which they could not throw away and replace them immediately by swedeshi clothes. Another lady quite bluntly told Mr. Gandhi that it was impossible for them to take the vow immediately and they must have sometime to think over the matter. Even Mrs. Sarojini Naidu who, it appears, has been his first and only convert took three months before she could enlist herself under Mr. Gandhi's banner, and she pathetically confessed at the meeting that Mr. Gandhi had been urging her to take the vow for three months before she could make up her mind and many were the tears which she shed on the lovely foreign clothes that she possessed before she would discard them. When even Mrs. Naidu's conversion was so long in coming, it is not surprising that the more practical ladies of Bombay could not fall such easy victims to Mr. Gandhi's preachings and they told him roundly that they would have to do their own thinking on the matter.

In our issue of 28th May last, we referred at some length to the opinion of the Board of Revenue, on the working of the Village Panchayats in Madras. We drew the attention of the readers to the Board's opinion that the informal Panchayat was not likely to become a popular institution and it did not achieve anything that would not have been done, equally well or better by Panchayats formed under the Local Boards Act. The Madras Government are not inclined to agree to this opinion and referring to the criticism of the Board, they say that some of the purposes for which the informal Panchayats have been started would not be within the scope of the Panchayats constituted under the Local Boards Act, namely, the control of tanks, fisheries, cattle stands, threshing floors etc. This opinion of the Government only strengthens our plea that we have all along put forth that the Panchayats should be placed on a statutory basis and given control over all the affairs relating to the improvement of the village. The informal Panchayats as they are at present constituted can do no useful work as they have not been given any useful work to do.

We are glad to note that the Madras Government are deputing an officer of the Provincial Civil Service to draft a law as simple and as elastic as possible in accord with the spirit of the resolution of 16th May last year. The Government propose that when the law is drafted by the officer it will be placed before a Committee of officials and non-officials for examination before they accord administrative approval to it. Instead of placing a draft bill before a mixed committee, we would suggest the appointment of such a Committee, of which the special officer shall be a member, to consider in detail the whole question of Village Panchayats. That would enable the Government to deal with the problem better than the course they now propose to adopt. For the last two years we have boen urging on the Government the importance of appointing a Commission or preferably three committees, one for the northern, another for the southern, and a third for the west coast districts, who would visit as many villages as possible and ascertain the actual requirements of the villages and advise the Government on what lines legislation should proceed. The Committees may be empowered to start Panchayats and do whatever may be necessary before legislation is undertaken. We would again point out to the Government that there is no good trying to solve the problem piecemeal. The problem must be tackled as a whole if they are in earnest in improving the lot of the poor villager who has no lot or part in any of the fine grandiose schemes of reform which loom so largely in the public eye.

The Indian Social Reformer writes:—We are utterly at a loss to imagine how two gentlemen of education and independence like Messrs. Mahomed Ali and Shaukat Ali, could make every effort to induce Muslims in India actively to assist the Amir of Afghanistan in his hostilities against the King-Emperor. No man in his senses, whatever his religious sympathies, would think of the medival despotismof the Afghan Amir as a desirable substitute for British rule in India and, but for the fact that the Government of India assure us that they have indubitable proofs that the brothers did make such efforts, we could hardly think such a thing possible. Government declare that they have in their possession the originals of some of the letters addressed by the brothers to various important personages in India as well as newspapers and private individuals.

THE
Wednesday Review

WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE, 1919.

MR. MONTAGU'S AMAZING PERFORMANCE.

WE are reluctant to say anything in depreciation of the efforts of Mr. Montagu to reform the administration of India in the light of his knowledge of, and his short acquaintance with, Indian conditions. But on a matter which so closely affects the well-being of over 300 millions of people, it will be worse than unpatriotic not to expose the absurdities and misstatements in which Mr. Montagu indulged in moving the Second Reading of the Reform Bill. We merely propose to show up in this article the amazing contradictions which marked or marred Mr. Montagu's speech. He prefaced his speech with the remark that he presumed that the House of Commons had mastered the series of elaborate documents bearing on the subject. In the same breath he told the House that it had so many responsibilities and so many important questions needing consideration that perhaps India looked quite small to many members. If that was the general attitude of the Honse to Indian questions, how did he assume that it had mastered the Joint Report, the innumerable despatches and endless representations and telegrams which, we suspect, even Mr Montagu could not have mastered. He pleaded for a Second Reading on the ground that there was much general agreement in India on the provisions of the Bill. That the assumption is entirely gratuitous may be seen from the circumstance that the Bill has just been published and that there can be no general agreement on its provisions, at any rate in India where nobody knew anything about the Bill till yesterday. Mr. Montagu claims that it took him two years of consideration to place a Bill before Parliament and therefore he has shown no undue haste in the matter. That contention will not bear a moment's examination. By a series of admissions which he, perhaps, inadvertantly made in his speech, he has convinced everybody that he took less than six months to visit India, to hear representations, to draw up the Joint-Report and finally to have a Bill prepared. He admitted that with the assistance of the India Office Committee a draft bill was prepared last year. The Bill which he has presented is practically a year old, and in the face of that admission, it is impossible to reconcile his statement that in drafting the Bill, all despatches and telegrams bearing upon the original scheme had been considered. It is not even a year since the original scheme was published It is, therefore, fair to presume that the publication of the Joint Report and the drafting of the Bill were almost simultaneous, that is, the Bill was drafted before any criticism or representation could have been made on the scheme. Mr. Montagu contended that in proposing changes in the administration they were not writing on a clean slate and they were building on existing foundations. The fact, however, is Mr. Montagu's aim has all along been, with the best of intentions no doubt, to obliterate everything on the slate and to root out the existing foundations. And his excuse for bringing in so revolutionary a Bill is that it did not pretend to give India an enduring constitution. That is a mercy for which we are profoundly thankful to Mr. Montagu. The Bill cannot give an enduring constitution to India for the excellent reason that the constitution it seeks to give will not endure. Mr Montagu seems to have read up some catch-penny manual on India, and he seriously informed the House that men of all castes have travelled in the same third class railway carriage and so his scheme of reform would work We cannot imagine a more puerile remark. Curiously enough, his informants have again been soldiers. The military would seem to be the fountain from which Mr Montagu is drawing his political wisdom. Mr. Montagu reached the climax of his absurdities when he proceeded to give his reasons for not taking into consideration the united opposition of the Local Governments in India to his diarchy. He admitted that it was not the work of the arm-chair critic but of the most experienced administrators in India, men who were entitled above all others to have their opinion. It is really kind of him to allow them that privilege. But he is not prepared to accept their conclusion His ground for rejecting it is that although they were entitled to give very weighty opinion they were not unprejudiced. He explained that as they had grown up under a system they did not like to see it altered. Probably having grown up under no system Mr. Montagu thinks that any system is good enough for India. The only exhortation to the House in which we can conscientiously join with Mr. Montagu is that the problem affected 315 millions of people, and so they must consider it with all the gravity and seriousness which it demanded of them If they did, we have little doubt that the Reform Bill would merge out of Parliament in a greatly improved form so as to be in keeping with the realities of the Indian situation and not such as would plunge India into political chaos and undo the work of constructive British statesmanship for the past hundred years and more.

MISREPRESENTATION.

By 'Workman.'

Misrepresentation, being one of the Fine Arts, often used to get much by giving little, pursued to its logical extremes and successfully practised may result in a distribution of possessions in ratios that may be anything from 1 up to Infinity on one side, and progressive fractional decreases ultimately approximating to Zero on the other.

We are told that there is nothing in nature that does not maintain equilibrium, and an even balance. May the mental balance of those that 'have not' be preserved by misrepresenting that of those that 'have.'

There is considerable scope for the exercise of the wit, in acquiring possessions and satisfying desires. The science of the transmutation of metals has not yet succeeded in turning all into Gold; but that of diverting the minds of men from loyal feelings by equivocal arguments, has been practised ever since the world began.

Possessions by the few have generally been the result of their performing great services to the many. The producer or distributor of Rice who can by his System reduce the price to the consumer, benefits a population, and helps the industries to a place in the world's markets. The persons concerned in the process may grow rich, not from anything taken from the poor, but from what they have given them; in return for which a mite from each individual may amount to a considerable sum. If the laborer is worthy of his hire, then the just equivalent of service rendered to the Public is due equally to the Rich for past endeavour, with that of the mass trying to help itself by its present daily labour.

Nothing would be gained by the mass by destroying the organisers of production or distribution of commodities, or transferring their profits for distribution amongst themselves; thus extinguishing their capital and power to hold reserves and regulate supplies.

But all these great issues are lost sight of owing to the mass ignorance, which holds out temptations to irresponsible agitators, not always posted up in the science of political economy, to wilfully or ignorantly 'misrepresent' motives of the upper classes and even the Government by way of first creating a malady in the minds of the mass and then producing a specific to cure it, which any Government would long ago have applied if it had been found effective.

So it is more than gratifying, after all that has happened, is happening, and is going to happen, that the Bengal Zamindars have inaugurated a campaign against Misrepresentation, by way of enlightening the masses surrounding them.

If Wit is at the bottom of survival of the fittest and brevity is the soul of wit, give us the wisdom accompanying wit that initiates action for spreading the Truth and exposes the Lying!

If a specimen of the supreme excellence of the Brevity of wit combined with wisdom for disposal of the vastest issues, might be useful at the present time, we could find it in President Wilson's plan of condensing his views in an ultimatum of 14 points. He has found many imitators since.

The Peace Conference is unique in all History for barring avalanches of language and vain contentions, that have no reference to the World issues the Germans are anxious to evade. But the Treaty handed them is a mere brief sketch of the working of a League of Nations; an essay without the simple definition of Principles involved, which would have been all sufficient for acceptance or rejection.

It would be easy to sum up, in 14 leading points the mistaken theories on which World Misrepresentation thrive;, when the attempt is made to govern masses, that have no sense of self-government, or a *pide a terre*, with a centre of Administration to rally on.

Thus it may be said that:—

(1) A mass generally rejects government by itself; and resents the elevation of individual mediocrity to positions of Authority; prefering the impartiality of the Upper Classes, or even the stranger, in matters of rule and business.

(2) As business outside, is essential to upkeep of the Home and its comforts inside, the Home-ruler only wants the expert business of the country arranged *for* him; and the Home and Social arrangements he will see to *himself*.

(3) The business of the country is not independent of that of all other countries, but is intimately mixed up with it. Government every where consequently acts only Nationally for Domestic purposes, but should do so also collectively as Trustees for the entire World-Work and Government of all Humanity.

(4) No Govt. therefore can get for its people more than the governments of all the other Countries agree to its having by fair means.

(5) Business can nowhere be carried on without Records and Offices with Officials to work them. The whole work of the world is therefore dependent on the co-operations of National Bureaucracies to secure agreements over the World's business.

(6) Masses could never negotiate these agreements without the information possessed by the Bureaux,

(7) Governments could never effect these agreements without the trust and confidence of the World's Peoples in their *bona fides*.

(8) The world of Peoples can never be sure of their positions, if their Governments cannot trust one another, or agree on Principles,

(9) To agree Principles and Practice, and

determine action on the responsibility of Governments, their Officials must confer, with the information the Bureaux afford.

(10) This is why the Principle of the League of Nations is finding general acceptance; and a first step to it is to establish a Head Quarter, an Office, & a Bureaucarcy!

(11) The first function it will aim at exercising is the demonstration of TRUTH. And the experts in the Departments of the Four Great Castes of 'all established Governments' will come to Resolutions in regard to their part in the World's Public business.

(12) The Agriculturists will follow showing that State-boundaries must not be invaded or altered, without the sanction of the League, so that 'Production' may proceed undisturbed.

(13) Traders will prove that excess Production without means of 'Distribution' and the Exchanges, is so much waste effort. But Inter-National Distribution and policy must be Regulated by Governments, not by individuals.

(14) Priesthoods will decide the 'Right Spirit' in which all Co-operative work should be approached; and will deliberate through the Leaders of all Sects, to Define it.

Misrepresentation flourishes where responsibility is not fixed. and assertions cannot be verified. Let everyone consult his Caste and his Government regarding the Truth, before committing himself and others to action.

Let every Government consult the Castes through responsible leaders in every Village and District, and by communal representation agree demands and adjust grievances!

Out of this ancient 'system' the Truth will rule, or the reason why it cannot, will be known, while Govt. and people will soon find the 'way' to banish all 'misunderstandings' arising from wilful or ignorant Misrepresentations.

Many of these owe their origin to world causes over which no local administration has complete control, and are capable of explanation. It is for this purpose the best instructed and most reliable Govt officials are required who by their personal magnetism possess the confidence of both Govt. and people, At the moment when dual responsibility for the appointment of these officials is in the air, the above considerations may be taken into accouut in connection with the responsibility of the Empire for best results in public work and government.

A GOOD RULE FOR THE HOME.

Make it a rule of your home to always keep on hand a bottle of Chamberlains Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy as a safeguard against bowel complaints. It always cures promptly and no household is safe without it. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

"MATTERS OF MOMENT."

TO THE EDITOR OF
THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW:

SIR,

How much does it matter whether the peeple are illiterate or can read their mother tongue? Some of the people of India are to have votes, must they be able to read. Are the educated women of India (for there are some well educated) to have votes? If not why not? These and other questions seem to the writer to be "Matters of Moment".

But the problem of problems for India and China is how the masses are to be taught to read their mother tongue. The Indian census tells us that there are nearly 2,95,000,000 illiterates, and in China probably 300,000,000 who cannot read. I have wondered whether India or China would first become a nation of readers. An event which has happened in China seems to point to China winning the race to learning. For "a new and simplified form of writing has been adopted by the Chinese Government, and by the missionary body in China." "The new script employs only 39 symbols.!' All the words in the English language are represented by combinations of 26 letters. But the new Script of China is far better than the English alphabet for whilst our use of English letters is horible, the 39 Chinese symbols are used phonetically, the same sign, having always the same sound and the same sound being always represented by the same sign "By a combination of the new 39 symbols all Chinese words can be accurately represented." Well Indian friends just reflect on the the great difference the new Chinese symbols will make in teaching illiterates to read. "The Chinese standard dictionary contains 45,000 different characters," and an illiterate has to master from 4,000 to 6,000 of these for the simplest reading. For reading classical works the student has had to master 20,000 characters (a task of twenty years very often). But now "By 39 phonetic symbols all Chinese words can be accurately represented." 39 Phonetic Signs to replace 45,000 complicated ideograms. What a boon to education. Now an Indian vernacular, on an average has only 37 main elementary sounds which need have letters so that if Indian scripts followed a purely alphabetic phonetic method an illiterate would only need to learn 37 simple letters, (two less than the Chinese illiterate). With about 37 letters Sanskrit and Sanskritic languages could be represented, and India instead of having from 10,000 to 20,000 of the most complicated types on earth, (Chinese ideogram alone excepted) could have a common alphabet of about 53 letters for all the vernaculars. Is not the while question

deserving the attention of the Government and the Missionary body?

J. KNOWELS.

TOPICS FROM PERIODICALS.

A PSYCHIC FAMILY.

Clairvoyance in children ought to be freely and increasingly manifest. There are more cases of this now than perhaps we are aware; and where the characteristics are recognizable it is advisable for parents to be particularly careful not to cramp growth by injudicious repression or restrictions, but to realise that example and harmony of surroundings are especially important for children who are inevitably high-strung and subject to moods, and who may easily be driven by their intense sensitiveness and reserve into the depths of mischievous melancholy.

This period of passage from one sub-race to another is a very difficult one, for not only is the reincarnating ego up against the prejudices may be of conservative parents, but individual, race and world karmas are operating with increased activity, while the old world must be subject for a long period to throes of social upheavals and the scrapping of ancient shibboleths. Indeed some occultists are aware that a controlling influence has been withdrawn temporarily from the civilised world, in order that a period of confusion may precipitate from this era of Mammon worship the next phase of the evolutionary procession.

The boy I wrote about gave indications of a certain clairvoyance while in the East, but at three years old bodily development and mental precocity no doubt combined to smother it.

Two other children, however a younger boy and a girl, whilst not apparently possessing the gift in very early years, have since developed it to an unusual degree.

By birth they are three parts Highland Scotch, one-eigth Irish, and one-eighth Yorkshire.

There seems to be some sort of Chinese influence in the family background. Clairvoyants invariably recognize this. Nor is there anything extraordinary in the supposition, for occultists know not only that advanced egos operate through selected individuals on this plane to produce certain ends, but that the greater part of disembodied humanity has to perform, after the purging period, services on behalf humanity has to perform, after the purging period, services on behalf of the evolution of the physical world. Moreover under certain circumstances elements of the evolutionary scheme which have not at any time assumed physical forms may attach themselves to individuals.

A Chinaman of high rank has again and again visited and been described by the south of England seer, and quite independently by other clairvoyants, for some years prior to the war, when messages true in substance, important, and encouraging were directed to be delivered to us. Behind the elder boy, the attendant circumstances of whose birth were described in 1913, appears to be one of fhe Magi, operating from what one may call the Asian head-quarters, and who in the deceptive guise not infrequently adopted when in touch with us leseer folk has not only visited me in the East but has been clairvoyantly seen and heard in this country on more than one occasion. There are some who will understand if I say that he is a member of the White Lodge.

In 1915 I returned from abroad to take part in the war.

In March of that year my second boy, until that time having given no sign of clairvoyance, awoke one night to see a Chinaman standing by the side of his bed.

He was not much frightened. We did dot pay much attention to the story, attributing to a vivid imagination. But we did refer the matter to the seer.

Before a reply, however, had been received, we had our own experience. I awoke one night conscious of a very heavy perfume, something between sandalwood and roses, of a kind familiar to those who have seen much of spiritualistic phenomena. All at once there was a very distinct tinkling of Chinese bells. There was no imagination about this. I tried every possible explanation and discarded them all. The sound was in the room above my head, yet giving the impression of distance, much as voices sometimes do at a seance. I did not awake my wife, not wishing to alarm her; but she awoke spontaneously shortly afterwards and immediately remarked upon the strong smell of incense. Meanwhile the bells had stopped. A day or two later the seer wrote to advise us of the visits of the Chinaman!

We have had no repetition of this.

I had had a previous experience of this same perfume independently in London a few years before, after a particularly successful seance during which no less than four complete and one incomplete materialization had occured at the same time, with the medium in full view and the light good. I had asked for an attempt to give some evidence of presence in our own house without the participation of the medium, and though anticipating no sucecss the intelligencest had agreed to try. At the very moment of putting the latch-key in the door a wave of the perfume envoloped me. I was reminded of the fact at a subsequent seance,

Our younger boy and, more lately our daughter have separately and together seen pixies, fairies

water sprites, sea nymphs, animals, a Druid, and what may be Ancient Britons. The boy particularly possessess this gift, and asserts that he has a guardian who comes to him at will.

It is interesting to note that the pixies correspond with the description given by others who have been privileged to see them, their dress varying in colour with the locality. One has been seen with his arms akimbo convulsed with laughter; another was swimming from the frond of a palm which to other eyes was rocking as from an air current affecting nothing else near it. Often the boy is surprised that no one sees these things. The pixies are described as being about six inches in height. Communicative animals are seen, sometimes accompanying the family dog. Pixies are said to enter the bedroom of the boy but not of the girl!

Water spirits were carrying what looked like little silver lights. Sea nymphs were green, some having tails, others ordinary bodies.

The boy asserts that he has been taken for a trip out of his body by his guardian. This introduces another incident.

A few nights ago our little daughter, a child of eight, awoke, and being unable to sleep turned on the electric light in order to read. She became suddenly aware of a cold draught of air and a buzzing, hissing sound, and saw a greyish cloud (or smoke form) alongside her bed. At the same moment her eyes were closed, and a hand seemed to be placed over her mouth, so that she could neither see nor speak, After what she describes as a minute of this she was released. She saw nothing, but fled to her mother's room, where she spent the rest of the night. The boy asserts that his guardian promised to try to take his sister on a journey such as he himself had experienced and that the guardian said that "they" had very nearly succeeded but not quite.

Mr. F.—in the *Occult Review*.

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Travelling libraries have also been set on foot by the government, for it considers them to be among the most vital agencies for good citizenship. Almost every state legislature makes appropriations of money and appoints a Free Library Commission to maintain a system of travelling libraries. They furnish books on travel, fiction, history, biography, useful arts, and miscellaneous literature te rural communities which are either too far away from town and cities, or are too small to support local libraries.

Travelling libraries are also fostered by private individuals and societies. During one summer I was stopping in a small country hotel in the mountainous regions of Colorado, I found in our hotel an interesting little Travelling Library. It had been lent by a private philanthropic organization. The Library had in its circulation list about seventy books. The landlady, who was the custodian of the Library, let the villagers have the use of the books free of charge. "In the work of popular education," rightly said Mr. Melvin Dewey, the famous American originator of so many far-reaching library methods, "in the work of popular education, it is, after all, not few great libraries, but the thousand small that may do most for the people,"

Library Service.

The American library is not a mere stack of books, and the librarians no mere caretakers or dragons to guard their privacy. The library is mostly service, aggressive service. Go into a modern library, and stop at its Information Desk, for instance. You will see the clerk at the desk explaining to one the reference volumes, directing another where to look for material, rescuing a casual reader from a fruitless search, or guiding a stranger to the proper shelves.

People who for some reason cannot come to the library may send in their requests for information by mail or telephone, and these requests are promptly attended to. The telephone is a very important adjunct of every library, and it is used in asking a constant succession of questions on the most diverse subjects imaginable. Over the telephone they ask: How high is Mount Everest? What are the best books for Christmas gift? How do you spell such-and-such a word? Can you tell me which is the best musical magazine published in America? May I have my book renewed for another week? Will you give me a list of books and magazine articles on co-operation? And the versatile young lady at the other end of the telephone wire gives the information desired. The Free Public Library of New York has recently tabulated that it answers annually about five thousand telephone inquiries for information from its constituency.

Another instance of the "popularization" of library service may be seen in the Public Writing Room maintained by the St. Louis Public library. It is a room fitted with chairs and tables for the use of the public to write private letters. Pen and ink, with paper and envelopes of medium grade, are supplied free by the attending custodian, and paper and envelopes of better grade, as well as postage stamps, may be bought in the room at cost. This is not all. The custodian takes dictation in shorthand, does typewriting, and receives orders for translations from foreign languages at current rates.

American libraries, which are not maintained for the merely book-reading public, are thoroughly socialized; they are used to their maximum. Libraries contain lecture halls, rooms for women's

study clubs, young men's debating societies, and meeting places for carrying on the work of various civic organisations. There is nowhere any suspicion of charity. The attitude of the librarian is that of a courteous host toward invited guests. They come and go much as they would in their own homes.

LIBRARY AND CHILDREN.

Some thirty or forty years ago children were excluded from almost every public library. And if they came at all, they found very few books for their use. Gradually, the barriers to the admission of children were broken down: the age limit for admission was reduced to 18; it dropped to 12, then to 10, next to 8, and now has disappeared altogether. To-day, all children are admitted to the Children's Department of the public library.

A visit to the Children's Department is always interesting. The rooms for "little folks" are equipped with low chairs, tables, and book cases especially suited to children. Bright pictures, bits of tapestry, and cheerful hangings give these rooms an attractive appearance. Here are kept juvenile books and magazines adapted to the age and taste of "little visitors". Sometimes, one finds a separate Study Room containing atlases, globes, and hanging maps, where the children of over-crowded homes may come for a quiet hour to prepare their school lessons.

The Children's Department has a library staff of its own, and even separate catalogues. Usually children's librarians are young women, college graduates, with expert training for library work with children.

A fine feature of the children's room is the abundant supply of sterooscopes and stereopticons. The Cincinnati Public Library operate moving picture shows which take children on a "tarry-at-home journey" to Japan, India, Switzerland, France, and many other distant lands.

The Children's Department has "story hours" to attract children of all ages. The plan of story telling is briefly this: groups of children are gathered within the library rooms in the winter months, and in the playgrounds during the summer, to hear, told by a trained story teller, folk tales, fables, myths, legends, ballads, or stories from Shakespeare's plays. The object of story telling is more than pure entertainment. The story teller tries by the subtlety of her art to awaken ambition, stir to moral courage, and lift the quality of reading. At the close of the story, it my even be suggested to the children that they "can get more such stories in the library", and take them home to read for themselves.

The public library is considered an integral part of the local educational system. Hence the Children's Department co-operates directly with the public schools in an effort to cultivate a taste for good literature in the young. Sometimes the school authorities will set apart a room in the school building for library purposes. And the public library will install there a collection of books, and have them under the charge of a trained libraraian. Again, the library as an importent ally of the schools, will send members of the library staff to visit the rooms of the public schools. They will display books with attractive binding, tell of the enjoyment and benefit to be had from reading the books, and invite all to come to the main library and get books.

It was Rousseau who remarked that "childhood has its own ways of thinking, seeing and feeling." In synthesis, this is the underlying idea of the Children's Department of the American public library. If the reading of the children is to make positive gain in richness and breadth, it should be guided and directed from the children's point of view. To this end, the children's librarian and her assistants seek to learn through personal visits to the homes of the children their tastes and interests. The Minneapolis Public Library has recently reported that its experts have found home visiting invaluable. They have not only been successful in persuading "doubtful parents that the library habit is a good one". but they have connected many boys and girls of the community, through a personal knowledge of their habits and character, with desirable books of the library

FINANCING THE LIBRARY.

There are in the United States eighteen thousand regularly established libraries. The funds at the disposal of the libraries are generally derived either from the government or private gifts or both. In former days the dying man in the West would ask the Catholic priest how, he could invest his money so as to buy eternal happiness in heaven. Now it has become the fashion in this country to think less of what an American calls "the measly little shriveled soul" and more about universities and libraries which will promote happiness here on earth. Indeed, few other American public institutions seem to attract the gifts of the well-to-do as does the public library. Memorial libraries are to be found everywhere in America. The greatest library philanthropist of the United States in Andrew Carnegig, the multi-millionaire "iron-king" He has so far distribnted over three hundred and sixty million rupees among some two thousand institutions.

The Modern Review.

SELECTION.

THE COCONUT INDUSTRIES.

The coconut estates of Trinidad, confined within comparatively small portion of the island by the sea coast, are yielding greater profits on the capital invested in them than any other agricultural industry in the island. With constant planting of new trees, the industry, it is considered, is bound to expand in importance during the next few years.

During the year 1917, the export of coconuts from Trinidad amounted to 16,595, 282 coconuts locally grown, and also 760,430 foreign coconuts, chiefly Venezuelan. Most of these were shipped to the

United States, the figures being 13,867,655 coconuts valued at 398,912 dols. and 696,100 Venezuelan coconuts, valued at 22,806 dols.

The export of copra in 1917, according to the United States "Commerce Reports" amounted to 7,201,445 lb. of which 3,277,258 lb. were exported to the United States. All the copra exported from Trinidad during that year was produced locally.

Production of Coconut Oil

Trinidad produces approximately 140,000 gallons of coconut oil a year for the consumption of the local population, especially the East Indian coolie classes, who use it both as a food and as a lotion for their bodies. The amount of coconut oil produced depends to some extent on the relative price of copra for when the export price of copra offers more profit than the manufacture of the same into coconut oil, the owners prefer to sell copra for export. Large exports of copra, which would seriously curtail coconut oil production, would never be permitted, as the local government would impose embargoes to keep, sufficient copra in the country. It was to prevent the threatened curtailment in the output of coconut oil, as well as to increase the Revenue, that the export duties on nuts and copra were increased in May 1917.

Productive Localities in Trinidad

Coconut trees are to be found practically all round the coast, but the production is concentrated chiefly in two districts—one, the Cedros district, has about 9,640 acres, 7,000 of which are bearing, and the other, the Mayaro district, has 7,500 acres in trees, all bearing coconuts. The island of Trinidad altogether has about 27,000 acres in coconuts, one-third of which is probably not yet bearing. The island of Tobago has now about 9,000 acres, but only a very small proportion of trees are bearing.

There are about 21,000,000 coconuts produced annually in the Cedros district, of which approximately 16,000,000 are grown on large estates owned by English companies or planters of French and Engish extraction, and about 5,000,000 on small estates owned chiefly by East Indians and negroes. The cost of working these small estates is considetably more per acre than that of large estates. Large estates vary from 800 to 1,600 acres, and small estates from 10 to 100 acres.

Next in importance to the Cedros district is that of Mayaro, which covers about seventeen miles of the southern part of the east coast of Trindad, with an extent inland of about a quarter of a mile. Some 12,000,000 coconuts are produced annually in this district, but the nuts are smaller than that produced in the Cedros district. The soil conditions are less favourable, and only about 20 per cent of all the coconuts produced are within the two classes desired for importent into United States as nuts. The remaining 80 per cent is used for copra and coconut oil, the shells serving as fuel for the manufacture.

Oil Factories in Mayaro,

In the Mayaro district there are three factories, each of which makes use of 7,000 coconuts per day for the manufacfacture of oil. The total output amounts to about 100,000 gallons per year, and about 500,000 lb of coconut cake, sold mostly in Trinidad for feeding stock. Probably about one-half of all the coconuts produced in this district find their way into these three factories for making oil, but this depends on the relative price of copra.

Machinery in Use—Camels' Hair Bagging.

At one of the cocoanut oil factories the machinery used consists of two shredding machines, one of Scotch and one of German manufacture, which grind the copra by tearing and cutting it into small pieces several edge-runner mills which grind without concussion, thus preventing premature expression of oil; three presses of German manufacture, having 3 tons pressure to the squre inch; and German hydraulic pumps. The press cylinders are made of cost steel and have pistons which press up against the pans holding the copra.

The greatest difficulty at present in connection with extraction of coconut oil is that of obtaining camels' hair press bags. Before the war these were imported from Germany at a cost of 10d. per lb. They are now imported form New York, but cost 4s. 2d. per lb, and are said to last only one-sixth the time of those formerly used. A bale of this bagging now lasts only about four months, it is said, and is difficult to import at all, but the German bagging of equivalent measure imported before the war would last about two years.

An analysis of coconut products was made at a factory in Port of Spain, the nuts having been delivered whole to the factory for this purpose, although usually only copra is brought there. This analysis revealed that 1,000 selected nuts, weighing 1491 lb. in the shell, yielded 735 lb. of green copra, 446 lb. of shell, and 310 lb. of water; the green copra yielded 440 lb. of dry copra. The same number of culls, weighing 1,043 lb. in the shell yielded 326 lb of shell, 189 lb of water, and 528 lb of green copra, or 318 lb. of dry copra. The 2,000 coconuts yielded 45 gallons (imperial) of coconut oil, averaging 6 gallons per 100 lb. of copra, and 290 lb. of coconut meal. The factory ordinarily uses 20,000 lb. of copra every week, making 1,2000 gallons of oil and 10,000 lb of meal. Besides coconut shells, wood and coal, a good deal of saw-dust obtained from a saw-mill in vicinity has been used for fuel.

Coir Fibre.

In addition to copra and coconut oil, the coir fibre of the coconuts is also a source of revenue in connection with the coconut industry of Trinidad, notwithstanding the fact that a vast amount of this fibre is wasted on husks thrown away or used only for fuel. At the gaol in Port of Spain, prisoners have an industry of making mats from coconut fibre, these being used for household purposes, for motor cars, etc. In Port of Spain there is also the West Indian fibre factory, employing about 50 persons, including 16 machine men, with an average output of between 6 and 7 tons of fibre per week.

At this factory the crude material of coconut husk is purchased locally, and the fibre finds a reads market in Europe, Venezuela, British Guiana, and other places. Sixteen machines standing in regular alignment perform the task of extracting the fibre, the motive power being supplied by an 85 horse power semi-Diesel two-cylinder engine imported from Manchester.

In addition to the coir-fibre factory at Port of Spain already mentioned, there is another plant existing for such purpose on the Cedros Peninsula, which with four machine, can use the fibre from about 2,000 coconut husks per day. It is temporarily closed on accounut of the difficulty of shipping the fibre.

There is the utmost feeling of confidence in Trinidad in the future of the coconut industry, and it is believed that there will always be an active world-demand for coconut products, especially Copra in connection with the increasing use of margarine. Many of the sugar planters in Trinidad, who fear that present very high prices, will not continue, are planting coconuts as a safeguard of future prosperity. Many coco planters also, when they have suitable

land, are planting coconuts, as it is believed that there is more prospect of stability in view of the coco market being more limited and of the great increasing competition from the new coco lands of Nigeria.

In the Board of Trade Journal.

RAT JATRA FESTIVAL PURI.

NOTICE.

In connection with the *Rat Jatra* festival which will take place at Puri from the 21st to the 29th June, the Government of Bilhar and Orissa wishes to warn all concerned that cholera is at the present time more widespread in the districts of Cuttack and Puri than it has been in any of the last five years at this season, and there is considerable danger that if there is a large influx of pilgrims, an epidemic may break out in Puri itself and the infection be spread all over India.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway have already announced that owing to the shortage of railway stock, they will not be able to make any special arrangements for traffic in connection with the festival and the number of pilgrims will in any case be restricted. But the Lieutenant-Governor in Council wishes further to appeal to all who propose to make the pilgrimage this year, in view of the danger not only to themselves but to the residents of their own and surrounding villages to abandon their intention. He therefore takes this means of soliciting the co-operation of the educated public in persuading would-be travellers to Puri to postpone their pilgrimage to some other occasion.

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Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bihar and Orissa, Municipal Department.

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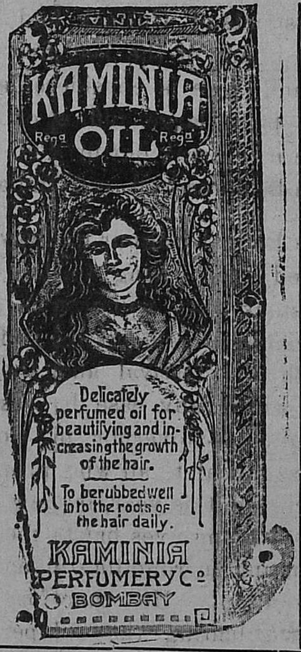

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